FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 APRIL 1987

Egypt and the PLO

The PLO was "surprised and extremely saddened" by the closure of its offices and it hopes that Egypt will reconsider this "hasty" decision, PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi stated in an interview with AFP. In Cairo, the official who headed the Egyptian delegation to the PNC asserted that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was subjected to "horrendous" pressure by several Arab and foreign states to agree to the PNC resolution on relations with Egypt, Radio Monte Carlo reported. He accused Syria, Libya, and "another" Arab state of leading the campaign against Egypt at the PNC. As for the effect of the Egyptian measures, the radio said that six PLO offices have been closed, although other Palestinian bodies like the Red Crescent and Women's Union remain open.

Israel

The cabinet discussion on Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' proposal for an international conference will take place at the beginning of June at the latest, IDF radio reported, adding that it is believed this will lead to the dissolution of the government and early elections. The radio asserted that a "limited group of decisionmakers" in the U.S. State Department favor Peres' initiative, but noted that the Americans do not want to be held responsible for causing the dissolution of the government by intervening in an internal political argument. While "authoritative" sources contended that the U.S. ambassador recently presented Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir with a U.S. proposal along the lines of Peres' initiative, Shamir's office maintained that the United States has not yet reached any decision on the international conference issue, Jerusalem television reported. As for the press reports that Peres recently met with Jordan's King Husayn, Jerusalem radio noted that the foreign minister was "extremely evasive" when questioned on the matter.

Iran-Iraq War

Battle Reports — An Iraqi military source cited by INA replied to Iranian "propaganda buffoonery" by declaring that Iraqi forces are in control on the northern battlefield and the situation is "stable." The Karbala'-10 operations "failed completely," he said, adding that the Iranians suffered more than 1,500 casualties. An Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio announced that more than 80 villages in northern Iraq were "liberated" during Karbala'-10 and a total of 4,000 Iraqi soldiers killed. Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the Majlis that the Karbala'-10 area will act as a "gateway" to further victories in the north, the station reported.

Iranian Military Promotions — In recognition of their contribution to the war effort, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni approved a recommendation by President 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, that 10 high-ranking officers be promoted, including the defense minister, the chief of the joint staff, and the commanders of the air force, ground forces, and navy, Tehran radio announced.

Arab Committee in Moscow — The seven-member Arab League Committee on the Iran-Iraq war traveled to Moscow where it had separate meetings with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and CPSU official Andrey Gromyko, INA reported. Shevardnadze and his Iraqi counterpart also met for bilateral consultations on efforts to end the war, according to Voice of the Masses radio.

Iran

Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi disclosed that police arrested several Afghans who were marching on the Soviet Embassy without a permit, Tehran radio reported. The minister issued a reminder that all demonstrations must receive prior authorization. Mohtashemi also urged citizens to be especially careful in observing Islamic regulations during Ramadan and called on the media to campaign against "prostitution and other forbidden acts."

Libya

The Libyan media should stop trading insults with Egyptian and other Arab media throughout the month of Ramadan, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared in a speech to the People's Committee for Information and Culture broadcast by Tripoli television. Libyan broadcasters should not respond in kind to the "obscene" and "silly" attacks from Cairo and other Arab capitals because insults should not be used in a "revolutionary" media and are "not part of our morals," the Libyan leader stressed. In other guidelines for broadcasters, Al-Qadhdhafi said the lack of religious programs on Libyan radio and television is "unacceptable," though he warned that a way must be found to ensure that such programs are not monopolized by one person or group. He also told the committee that it should not impose songs about himself on the public, noting that he personally dislikes such "absurd" songs which are of no benefit.

Morocco

In remarks cited by MAP, General Abdelaziz Bennani, commander of the southern zone, stressed that the new defense wall "in no way" poses a danger to Mauritania. The general admitted that Moroccan soldiers and Polisario "mercenaries" recently clashed in the Guelta Zemmour area but he denied that a Moroccan warplane was downed.

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Najibullah Tells Wounded of Reconciliation Plan
LD250756 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Speech by PDPA General Secretary Najibullah to disabled war veterans in Kabul on 24 April — recorded]

[Excerpts] Heroic comrades and proud sons of the country: We are meeting each other on the threshold of the ninth anniversary of the 1 April revolution. [passage omitted]

You must also — very esteemed friends — perceive that we are not yet able to accomplish everything, because half of our production goes to this imposed war. However, we should know exactly which tasks really are impossible and which tasks are not being performed due to indifference. I promise you that we will carefully investigate each of these cases and punish the culprits for their deeds. [applause] [passage omitted]

Irrespective of this, our possibilities are still very limited since the imposed war of reaction and imperialism is still continuing. [passage omitted]

Esteemed friends: By tomorrow, 100 days will have elapsed since the date of the realization of the national reconciliation policy. Time passes very quickly. In consideration of this fact, I would like to recall, once again, the main points of reconciliation to you and all compatriots.

With whom does the PDPA and revolutionary sovereign government want to reconcile?

With all genuine national forces who are interested in stopping bloodshed and who perceive the need for the peaceful life and revolutionary transformations in the country regardless of past hostility; with parties, groups and political factions, with all armed groups inside and outside of the country to whom talks have been proposed. Reconciliation will be denied only to those who continue the fratricidal war.

What are the compromise measures in the national reconciliation policy?

1. The cease-fire initiative by the Armed Forces of the DRA. We did not even carry out combat operations on those positions that have been named by the DRA Revolutionary Council statement.

2. The agreement of the PDPA with the participation of the opposition forces through ensuring their representation in the structure of the political and economic [word indistinct] of the country in the capital and localities up to the creation of a national unity coalition government.

3. Discussion of the approval of the DRA Constitution with the participation of the representatives of the opposition.

4. Islam as the religion of people of Afghanistan.

5. The urgent solution of the all-around growth of the nationalities and tribes. Serious support for the tribal organizations and [word indistinct] support for nomads.

6. The implementation of a broad general amnesty. Nonprosecution for the previous political activities.

7. Creation of favorable conditions for the return of emigres to the homeland, and their acceptance. Providing them with foodstuffs and registration for employment.

8. The transformation of the economic policy to a renewal compromise system to help with the development of all systems and sectors of the economy including state, mixed, consumer, normal, cooperative and private sector.

9. A new approach toward the land and water rights without unnecessary (?jumps) with consideration of the interests of all classes of the peasants.

10. Support and encouragment by the state for producers and small businessmen.

What are the acceptable points for both sides in these compromises?

The PDPA and the revolutionary sovereign government will find it possible to implement their programmed objectives in conditions of peace and national compromise. This will allow us to utilize all the forces and means for the implementation of the creative goals of the April revolution with the participation of all the people in the urgent task of resolving economic and cultural issues and [word indistinct] creation in the social spheres, which is of vital importance for the broad masses of the people.

The opposition organizations and groups will enjoy the possibility of discussing these proposals because they have been considered in the constitution. That means that they can openly participate in the national political life of Afghanistan and jointly fulfill their interests in the various areas of social life. There are many such areas — for example, state administration, the development of political democracy in the economy, and social, cultural, religious, educational areas, and so on.

Everyone will enjoy the financial resources and opportunities to prove in practice their principled correctness based on the representation of the people of Afghanistan. It is important that practical possibilities will be provided for ending bloodshed in Afghan territory and mobilizing the efforts of all Afghans who truly have an interest in Afghanistan's progress.

But there is a limit to concessions. The PDPA will uncompromisingly defend the major gains of the April Revolution, the interest of working people, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and the true independence of the country.

What are the mechanisms to implement in practice the national reconciliation policy?

1. The National Front, which is open to the whole country, to groups and even to individuals including those who do not officially recognize the program of the PDPA has an important role in organizing the national reconciliation.

2. The main bodies for implementation of the measures linked with national reconciliation are the nationwide extraordinary commission and the local national reconciliation commissions, that is the commissions in the provinces, districts, subdistricts, and villages. Their structure and powers have been arranged by the DRA Revolutionary Council.

3. The extraordinary commissions enjoy great powers; they provide for talks and contacts with the armed groups and emigres and organise peace assemblies for resolving the issue of reconciliation.

4. Immediately after the reaching of agreement in connection with reconciliation, the villages, districts, sub districts, and cities will be declared peace zones. The peace assemblies assess the urgent issues of the day and present their proposals for resolving them to the state bodies.

5. The duties of the extraordinary commission include protecting the observance of the glorious cease-fire and adopting decisions to prevent its violation.

6. During the reconciliation, state and military bodies guarantee the nonprosecution of those who are ready for talks and constructive dialogue and who report to the cities for this purpose. This also applies to ringleaders of the bands.

7. As a result of all the work in connection with reconciliation, comprehensive and long-term peace agreements will be signed by all the sides. They will be approved at an extraordinary peace assembly, which will be held for this purpose. We will hold the extraordinary peace assembly at a time when we feel it is needed.

That is the opinion and the important principles of PDPA policy at the present time and in conditions of revolutionary sovereignty to achieve reconciliation in Afghanistan, which I explained to you, dear friends.

The aim of the national reconciliation movement from the social and class viewpoints is to unite all the classes and groups including nomads and national investors. party members and those who do not support the policy and [word indistinct] of the PDPA, and even struggle against it.

Afghanistan is discussed worldwide. Our friends talk about it while our enemies shout. I ask you esteemed compatriots not to listen to the voice of the enemy, which spreads lies about the country.

Here is a fresh example: Two days ago the Voice of Islamic Revolution broadcast a report that on 11 April the comrade (?governor) of Takhar province had joined the side of those who are fighting for their beliefs along with 300 civil servants of the province. These words are all lies and deception, from beginning to end. First Comrade (?Amar) the ex-governor of Takhar, has been appointed to a new post, as secretary of the DRA Revolutionary Council. Comrade (?Amar), are you here? You all can see Comrade (Amar). [applause]

Second, there should be 45 civil servants in Takhar Province, according to the organization. [passage indistinct]

This was a recent example for you. But, unfortunately there are people who listen to such propaganda and lies and believe the rumors. You should believe in the revolutionary reality.

Yesterday we heard the regular report on implementation of national reconciliation.

The following has been accomplished during the 100 days of reconciliation: As I mentioned, before the mechanism of national reconciliation is the extraordinary national reconciliation commissions. So far these commissions have been created in all provinces and cities and in 1,681 villages. Around 20,000 patriots belong to them. Representatives of the other side who return to the country are taking part in the running of the commissions.

At the present time more than 3,000 representatives of the opposite side are members of these commissions. Around 21,000 opponents have joined the state administration. One thousand one hundred groups, totalling of more than 100,000 persons, are having talks and contacts with state bodies. One thousand one hundred villages have been liberated through a peaceful approach, and the second phase of elections for local organs of power and state administration have been held in 927 villages. As a result of the general amnesty decree, 5,500 prisoners have been released. This process in continuing following request by the extraordinary national reconciliation commission. The number of emigres who have returned home is 44,000. They have been warmly welcomed by friends, relatives, and state bodies.

I visited the Jangalak plant recently. I was informed that 470 emigres who laid down their arms have been employeed there. There are many such examples.

Permit me, on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, to congratulate you on the ninth anniversary of the April Revolution, which you justly regard as your own beloved revolution [applause] We wish you health, prosperity and happiness. Thank your for your attention. [applause]

Curfew Imposed After 5 Killed in Ahmedabad 26 Apr

BK261555 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] In Ahmedabad, five persons were killed in a sudden outbreak of violence this evening. Of them, two died in police firing and the rest in stabbing incidents. Six persons were injured. The police resorted to firing when a violent crowd indulged in stone throwing and arson. The disturbances started after a quarrel during a cricket match.

Indefinite curfew has been clamped in some localities under the (Kharanj) police station areas of the city from 1830 this evening. Police say the situation is tense but under control.

Curfew in South Tripura 28 Apr

BK281603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Indefinite curfew was imposed at Belonia notified area in south Tripura district from 1200 today following clashes between two political groups. Our Agartala correspondent reports that at least five persons were injured and a few houses were damaged. Senior police officials have rushed to the spot. The situation is under control.

Sri Lankan Leadership 'Complicating' Problem

BK280533 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 27 Apr 87

[From "Spotlight" program: Commentary by Sunil Roy of PTI —"The Situation in Sri Lanka"]

[Text] The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has taken a turn for the worse. Events in the past 1 week in the island republic have brought a trail of misery to the total civilian population — Sinhalese and Tamil-speaking people alike — blasting all hopes of a peaceful resolution of the ethnic unrest. The Sri Lankan Government has virtually declared war against the Tamil-speaking minority in the Eastern Province and Jaffna peninsula following last week's car bomb explosion in Colombo. For 5 successive days Sri Lankan Air Force planes rained bombs and strafed indiscriminately suspected hideouts of Tamil militants. The government is silent on the toll in the aerial bombings. According to travelers from Jaffna to Colombo, at least three civilian hospitals have been damaged in the air strikes. Even a newspaper office in Jaffna was not spared. Such was the intensity to the military action the Sri Lankan government ordered immediately after the Colombo car bomb blast that killed an estimated 150 on the spot and maimed more than double this figure.

The government suspected the hands of two Tamil organizations in the blast almost within hours of the incident, but a state-controlled Colombo newspaper has come out with a report that the motive behind the blast was to swing international opinion and get further assistance at the forthcoming Aid Sri Lanka meeting. The car bomb blast brought in its wake a reversal of Sri Lankan policy toward resolving the ethnic conflict which erupted in a big way in July 1983 riots. The Sri Lankan leadership has been blowing hot and cold and alternating between a military and negotiated settlement of the issue that has already claimed thousands of innocent lives.

In a recorded magazine interview, President Jayewardene held up the promise of a political settlement of the ethnic conflict in 1985 end. If no political settlement was in sight, Mr Jayewardene threatened to launch a decisive military action to crush the militant Tamils once for all. President Jayewardene returned to the theme of a military solution once again last year. Not suprisingly, the Sri Lankan prime minister, Mr Premadasa, told parliament a few days ago that Sri Lanka is not prepared to go in for a political solution. Of course, the views of the prime minster are in line with the president who had once declared that the Tamil problem is more a military problem and any military problem has to be tackled militarily. But it is anybody's guess who President Jayewardene preferred to contradict Mr premadasa's policy statement which advocated a military solution to the ethnic conflict. In an evident policy reversal, the president declared yesterday that his government was pro peace and pro political settlement. He extended a hand of peace and friendship to the Tamil militants.

One wonders what led the Sri Lankan leadership to change its approach to finding a lasting solution to an ethnic issue. An impression is gaining ground that the Sri Lankan leadership, far from solving the ethnic problem, is complicating it. Sri Lanka has taken the help of Israel and Pakistan to train its security personnel. The latest is that the former British soldiers are training the Sri Lankan security forces. This was confirmed by a British minister only 10 days ago. Evidently, security perceptions in Sri Lanka is being dictated by extraneous considerations which need not take into account national interests and the people who inhabit the country.

The last UN Human Rights Commission meeting held on 3 March heard castigating remarks against Sri Lanka's repressive policy. The Sri Lankan delegate acknowledged that persuasion is the best approach in the extension of human rights frontiers. The Sri Lankan Freedom Party, to which the former prime minister, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, belongs, has charged the Sri Lankan Government that last week's Colombo car bomb blast was an inside job carreid out with Israeli help. The government is silent on the charge.

Although India's mediatory role was suspended since the economic blockade of the Jaffna peninsula toward the end of last year, new Delhi sent an emissary to Colombo last month in the evident hope of salvaging the situation. India has all along been advocating a political settlement of the issue. But with the changed mood of the Sri Lankan leadership one wonders if it is really interested in India's offer of help. Sri Lanka has nearly succeeded in undoing the gains of the past years. It is time to make a new beginning before it is too late.

Protest Lodged After DRA Bombing, Shelling
BK281729 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1700 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] It has been officially stated in Islamabad that six fighter planes of the Kabul administration penetrated up to 5 kms into Pakistani airspace last Friday [24 April] and dropped six bombs and fired 30 rockets at the (Raykhel) area of the Bajaur Agency, injuring two persons of the Bajaur scouts. After this, six planes of the Kabul administration violated Pakistani airspace on Saturday morning and dropped 12 bombs and fired rockets in (Nawabaz) area of the Mohmand Agency, injuring a person of the frontier crops. On the 23d of this month, Kabul administration forces fired 18 artillery shells which fell in the (Suleman) area of the Khyber Agency, injuring one person. On the same afternoon, Kabul administration forces fired 51 artillery shells at (Raykhel) area of the Bajour Agency, injuring two Pakistani citizens.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the foreign office in Islamabad this afternoon, and a strong protest was lodged with him over these unprovoked attacks.

Daily Questions Junejo Remarks on Midterm Polls
BK271555 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Apr 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Junejo on Mid-Term Polls"]

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's statement in London that there is no popular demand for early elections in Pakistan is questionable, to say the least. The Government may have other reasons for resisting the repeated opposition call for mid-term polls, but the Prime Minister is not justified to dismiss it on the plea that the people of Pakistan do not want elections. The non-party polls held under the umbrella of Martial Law, regardless of the high turnout, were not a free reflection of the popular sentiment. The political parties which have substantial mass following were kept out of the contest and the voters had a limited choice.

Ever since the lifting of Martial Law and revival of political parties, the opposition has been consistently demanding the holding of mid-term polls — which apparently is the only viable means of ascertaining the popularity of both the government party and its political rivals. The ruling Muslim League represents only a segment of public opinion and has yet to establish its popular bona-fides. Though the opposition has not chosen to go in for agitational politics, it has amply demonstrated its ability to attract mammoth crowds. As a matter of fact the opposition has consciously refrained from a policy of confrontation and has not closed the doors for a dialogue.

The future of democracy in Pakistan depends on building effective and credible democratic institutions and their legitimacy can be established only if they are backed by consensus. The Prime Minister should realise that at this crucial stage of transition to democracy top priority has to be given to the task of evolving the basic framework within which the politics in future has to be pursued, and this cannot be accomplished by dismissing the political forces as a non-factor. Mr. Junejo may take credit for initiating the democratic process, but this does not entitle him to claim that he and his party alone represent the popular will. If he is so confident of his rapport with the masses, he should not hesitate to seek popular mandate in an open and fair electoral contest.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Favors 'Military Solution' to Conflict

BK281626 Hong Kong AFP in English 1554 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Colombo, April 28 (AFP) — Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene said here Tuesday he favoured a military solution to the island's bloody ethnic conflict.

Correspondents invited to interview the president said he told them: "I favour a military solution," but added, "There is no permanent military solution."

Mr. Jayewardene, who launched a major offensive against rebel strongholds last Wednesday, said: "i want democracy and elections here but it is necessary to eliminate terrorism."

"These people have to be defeated militarily," he added.

Elections are due in 1989, but the president on Sunday said he might decide to call a referendum because of the troubles. The government, elected in 1977 held a referendum to prolong their parliamentary majority in December 1982.

Sri Lanka witnessed one of its worst week's of violence last week when some 300 people died including 111 in a car bomb blast in the heart of Colombo.

He went through India's failed attempts at mediation which are now halted and said "There is nothing further we can do," beyond the proposals put forward last summer.

These were for two provincial councils in the north and east which the militants rejected.

"We are still trying to bring the leading terrorist groups to the table," he said, but warned there would be "no talks with terrorists as long as they do not lay down arms ... and surrender their arms."

If India brought guarantees of a real ceasefire then talks could be held even if the guerrillas remained armed, he added.

Sri Lanka's Armed Forces had the capability of taking Jaffna from the guerrillas, "If no further arms come from India. [no closing quote as received]

He did not say at what date the northern peninsula town might be taken and would not give details about the aims and means of the current offensive.

The government has said some 400 guerrillas have been killed in the aerial bombardment of Tamil strongholds since Wednesday, but Tamil sources have said less than 40 died.

Mr. Jayewardene said guerrilla bases in the nearby southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu may be closed but "terrorists are still receiving arms from India."

"I do not put responsibility on Indian Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi for that," he said.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran and intelligence officials did not always follow the Gandhi line against the creation of a separate state in Sri Lanka, which the guerrillas are fighting for, Mr. Jayewardene said.

He accused the main rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE], of being a private army of Mr. Ramachandran and said another group, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation [TELO], was the private army of a former chief minister of Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Jayewardene said the LTTE leader, Prabakharan returned to Jaffna recently but was "entertained, armed and financed in Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu, home to 50 million Indian Tamils".

The LTTE and TELO were "two private armies of two politicians. That is mucky politics of mucky politicians," he said.

He appealed to all countries and especially Britain, the former colonial power, for "arms, money, advice and sympathy" to defeat the guerrillas.

Official Says Tamil Nadu Aid 'Contraband'

BK290256 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0218 GMT 29 Apr 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 28 (LANKA PUWATH) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has alled on the Sri Lankan Government not to seek a military solution to the ethnic conflict and to stop its offensive against separatist terrorists.

The Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (TV) announced in its late night news telecast that Mr Gandhi made these statements during a meeting with India's top military commanders in New Delhi yesterday.

He was reported as saying that it is in the interest of all that the killings should stop.

He called on the parties concerned to begin negotiations on the basis of the Sri Lankan Government's December 19 proposals.

Meanwhile, Acting Foreign Minister Tyronne Fernando commenting on Mr Gandhi's statement said that Sri Lanka had not closed the door on a political settlement to the present crisis.

But, that in the face of the recent violence by the separatist terrorists, the government had to take defensive measures.

He added that the Sri Lankan Government was ready to engage in a dialogue with the concerned parties to evolve a political settlement to the enthnic problem, no sooner the terrorists laid down their arms.

In a separate development Mr Fernando today summoned Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka J.N. Dixit to the Foreign Office to express concern over a statement made by the Tamil Nadu government that it had pledged 88 million Sri Lankan rupees to the economically affected Sri Lankan Tamils which would be channelled to them through what are described as "Madras based rehabilitation agencies" rather than through the Sri Lankan Government.

Mr Dixit had indicated that he would convey the concern of the Sri Lankan Government to relevant Indian authorities.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in India Bernard Tillekeratne has appraised the Indian authorities of the Tamil Nadu government's pledge.

Diplomatic sources where of the view that by making such a pledge the Tamil Nadu government which constitutionally had no power to get involved in foreign affairs was embarrassing the Central Government of India.

Asked what Sri Lanka would do in the event that the Tamil Nadu authorities send food, clothing and medical supplies directly to Jaffna the acting foreign minister told Rupavahini that Sri Lanka will be compelled to treat the goods as contraband.

Security Forces Overrun Another LTTE Base
BK291029 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0933 GMT 29 Apr 87

["OANA Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 29 (LANKA PUWATH) — Security forces overran another Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) jungle base at Kadiraweli in the Trincomalee District, eastern Sri Lanka last [words indistinct] killing two terrorists and captured five others, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH.

At Viduthalthivu Illuppukadavel in the Mannar District, north western Sri Lanka yesterday, security forces recovered a number of hand grenades and explosive packed in cylindrical pipes together with detonator cords from an abandoned terrorist base.

Meanwhile, at Mamangam in Batticaloa District, eastern Sri Lanka, government troops in a confrontation with a group of terrorists yesterday killed two terrorists and recovered three no. 36 Mills type hand grenades, explosives, rolls of wire and LTTE literature.

Tamil Radio Says Batticaloa City 'Tense'
BK281608 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Batticaloa City looked deserted for the 2d day in a row yesterday. All shops remained closed. Some shops which opened for a few hours in the morning closed later. A tense situation prevailed in the city, the exact cause of which was unknown. People feel anything could happen at any time. The government (?secretariat) functioned as usual.

Further Reportage on Karbala'-10 Operations

Iranians 500 Meters from Mawat

LD281043 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Karbala'-10 Operational Region, April 28, IRNA — The Muslim combatants are reportedly stationed a mere 500 meters from the Iraqi city of Mawat, in the wake of the ongoing Karbala'-10 operations launched early Friday. Mawat has been turned into a major supply center for its northeastern fronts by the Baghdad regime

A group of reporters who visited the area said that the Iraqi regime has built fortifications and bunkers around the city turning it into a 'impeneterable fortress'. The supply roads for Chuwartah and Sulaymaniyah pass through the city giving it a strategic location.

In the victorious Karbala'-10 operations launched in a 300 sq. km area, 25 kms of the strategic Mawat-Chuwartah and Mawat-Sulaymanyah roads have come under the direct range of Iranian fire, further weakening the already fragile position of the Ba'thist regime in Iraqi Kurdistan.

From the heights overlooking Mawat, Iraqi vehicles are seen busy carrying away the killed and wounded and also evacuating the city. The city is fortified by large tracts of mine fields and barbed wire fences.

Wreckages of burnt tanks and personnel carriers on the surrounding hills indicate the speed of the assault of the Muslim forces of Iran, which took the enemy by surprise.

Heavy exchange of artillery fire could be heard in the region. The Iranian artillery units backed by the ground forces have paralysed the enemy. Any enemy copter appearing in the skies immediately chased away by the ever-alert Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

The whole region, now turned into the defence line of the Iranian forces is filled with bodies of dead Iraqi soldiers. Helicopters of the Iranian army aviation service carry several sorties bombarding Iraqi positions and returning safely to their bases.

The reconstruction jihad units and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) have built a 35 km long road connecting Mawat to Baneh-Bolhassan [names as received] road which passes through the liberated Iraqi Kurdistan villages.

Over 80 Villages Taken

LD281059 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Karbala'-10 Operational Region, April 28, IRNA — Some 300 square kilometers of land in Iraqi Kurdistan has been liberated since the start of the ongoing victorious Karbala'-10 operations, in northeastern Iraq, early Friday.

With the liberation of the area, Muslim forces have taken over 80 villages in the region and by gaining a firm foot-hold on the heights around Mawat town, are overlooking its garrison known as 'Basan'.

Over 4,000 Iraqis have been killed or wounded and 320 others captured since the start of the operations.

Muslim forces are also overlooking Surah Qalat and Karizah cities and have full control over roads linking these cities to Al-Sulaymaniyah and Chuwarta.

Meanwhile, pilots of Air Force and army aviation service relentlessly pounded Iraqi troops concentration centers, inflicting heavy blows on them.

Muslim combatants by passing through the mountainous areas are stationed 500 kilometers from Mawat town and have full control over 25 kilometers of the Mawat-Al-Sulaymaniyah Road.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique

LD281247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters Communique no. 3]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O you the ummah of Islam, the Muslim and revolutionary nation: The mighty combatants of the corps of monotheism, continuing the victorious Karbala'-10 operations launched in response to the atrocities of the Iraqi regime in the Persian Gulf and that regime's use of chemical weapons, particularly the chemical bombing of the Iraqi Kurdish inhabited areas, and in order to express support for the Muslim people of the Iraqi Kordestan, began the third phase of these operations in the Iraqi province of Al-Sulaymaniyah. During this phase of the operations, the warriors of Islam succeeded in delivering further heavy blows on the enemy and succeeded in liberating and taking control of another part of this region's important heights.

During these successful operations, the mighty combatants of the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps crossed the harassing obstacles and heights of the region and fought a heavy and brave battle. They captured the Shah-Golan and Fashan heights, and the heights overlooking the military town of Mawat and the heights 999, 1695, and 1693 of Golan.

The forces of Islam also liberated several more villages of the region, including the villages of Zhawli, Qashan, Geda and Golan, bringing the number of the liberated villages in the northern regions of Iraq to more than 80. Our forces have now completed this phase of the operations and are now overlooking Mawat and Chuwarta.

During these operations, a considerable number of Zionist enemy troops were taken prisoner. So far, more than 152 of them have been taken behind the battlelines, bringing the total number of the pows captured during the Karbala'-10 operations to 325. More groups of pows are being transfered behind the battlelines. Over 900 enemy troops were killed or wounded, bringing the total number of Zionist enemy forces killed since the start of the Karbala'-10 operations to 4,000.

Following the remarkable victories of the forces of Islam and

their lightning advance, more than 500 troops of the Zionist enemy and mercenary agents of the Iraqi regime surrendered to the mighty warriors of Islam.

During this phase of the operations, the following Iraqi units were destroyed: the 439th Infantry Brigade, the 65th Brigade of the special forces, the 36th Mountain Brigade, the 91st Infantry Brigade, a commando battalion of the 1st Mechanized Division, a commando battalion from the 32d Divison, a battalion from the 28th Infantry Brigade, a battalion from the 502d Infantry Brigade, a commando battalion from the 5th Division, a commando battalion from the 7th Infantry Division, and a battalion from the 1st Commando Battalion. Thanks to the successful completion of the third phase of these operations, over 25 km of the Mawet-al-Sulaymaniyah highway, and the heights overlooking the towns of Sureqalat and Karizeh and their main linking road to Chuwarta and Al-Sulaymaniyah came under control of our forces. As a whole, more than 300 squre km of the Iraqi al-Sulaymaniyah province have been liberated by the forces of Islam during the Karbala'-10 operations.

During these victorious operations, the brave pilots of the Army Aviation Unit and the Air Force of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces, through their admirable courage, bombed concentration points, defence lines, and positions of the Zionist enemy forces. Heavy losses and casualties were inflicted on them. Thanks to efforts of the engineering-combat unit of the Reconstruction Jihad and the Guards Corps, new access and logistic roads were built in the sector and used by the forces of Islam.

Right now, the forces of Islam, by consolidating their positions in the liberated heights and regions, are pounding positions of the Zionist enemy and are not giving them any chance to move.

[Signed] The Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters.

Communique No 2,820 Issued

LD281719 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 28, IRNA — Five civilians were martyred and at least 10 others wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed 'Shuy' village, a suburb of Baneh city in Kordistan Province at 09:12 GMT Tuesday. Two houses were also destroyed in the Iraqi air raid.

Announcing the above here today, the 2820th Joint Staff Communique said that Iranian artillery fire inflicted substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi forces throughout the fronts Monday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the northwestern fronts yesterday raging somewhat more heavily in Sar Dasht where a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one enemy vehicle and several bunkers destroyed.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts yesterday inflicting some casualties on enemy troops and destroying at least 10 gun emplacements of theirs.

Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of Marivan, Kordistan Province, Monday but were forced to flee without carrying out any bombing mission by Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

Muslim forces of Iran responded to Iraqi artillery fire in the western fronts especially in Qasr-e Shirin theater yesterday, killing or wounding several enemy soldiers and destroying one munitions dump, three bunkers and observation posts of theirs.

An Iraqi patrol convoy attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Sumar, western fronts, Monday was forced to flee by artillery fire of Iran's Muslim forces.

In the southern fronts yesterday, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one vehicle and several bunkers of theirs set ablaze when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire. Enemy fire was also silenced.

Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected 6 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed them to continue their voyage after finding no suspicious cargo aboard them, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Kurds' Successes Cited

LD281753 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] The forces of the democratic party of Iraqi Kurdistan, continuing their struggle against the Iraqi Zionist, Ba'thist mercenaries, succeeded in inflicting heavy losses on an Iraqi airport and power station and the headquarters of an Iraqi police battalion.

An IRNA report quoting informed sources says that the airport was the landing site of military aircraft of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime deployed against Iraqi Kurdish warriors. Simultaneous with these operations the forces of the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan in the town of Sarsang succeeded in destroying a mortar and a vehicle carrying mercenaries of the Saddamist Zionist, Ba'thist regime, killing seven of them. According to the report the body of an Iraqi company commander could be seen among the dead.

IRGC Chief Details Successes

LD281800 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] West Operational Region, April 28, IRNA — Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i elaborated on the achievements of the Fath-5, Nasr-1 and Karbala'-10 operations in a T.V. programme to be broadcast on national television network Tuesday night.

During the Fath-5 operations carried out inside Iraq, Reza'i said, Muslim combatants of Iran destroyed Iraqi defence lines far from the forefront, and liberated regional heights. 300 Ba'thist soldiers were captured and many others including some senior officers were killed.

The Nasr-1 operations helped block passages used by counter-

revolutionaries to infiltrate here, said the IRGC commander.

After Nasr-1 operations, he added, the Muslim combatants launched Karbala'-10 assault (April 24), liberating so far 300 square kms of Iraqi soil and capturing 250 enemy soldiers. Many villages were also mopped up of Ba'thist troops, Reza'i noted.

The IRGC commander said that the atrocities perpetrated by the Baghdad government in Kurdish-populated areas, northern Iraq, are worse than those committed by the regime occupying Qods against Palestinians in Tallal-Za'tar and Dayr Yasin or those of Hitler.

According to reports reaching here, Reza'i said, the people in Irbil and Sulaymaniyah are eagerly awaiting the Muslim combatants of Iran to come and liberate them. He added that Iranian forces are now fighting Ba'thist troops north of Irbil, in Sulaymaniyah and Al-Mawsil.

"The world should know that the Muslim combatants will powerfully continue their holy defense," the commander said.

Shelling of Basra Denied

LD290856 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Wednesday denied Iraqi claims that Iran shelled the city of Basra Tuesday.

The spokesman said that despite Basra abandoned by its civilian population has been turned into a military city, Muslim forces of Iran opened no artillery fire on it. [sentence as received] "Therefore", He stressed "Iraqi allegations are sheer lies."

He added that the city of Basra was empty of inhabitants and that military personnel were stationed in it.

Although Muslim combatants of Iran were fighting Iraqi troops only a few kilometers from Basra, they had virtually opened no fire on the city, despite the Iranian cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr being under daily Iraqi fire, the WIH spokesman said.

On reasons for such "baseless fabrications", the spokesman said that repetitive claims by the Baghdad rulers on the alleged shelling of Basra were an attempt to mislead world public opinion and international organizations into believing that Basra is a non-military city. The Iraqi regime is exploiting Basra as a political propaganda, he added.

Those who are even the least acquainted with the Iraq-Iran war and the stationing of Muslim forces in east of Basra, very well know that Basra cannot have any population, the spokesman noted.

Armed Forces Install 'Powerful' Antiship Missiles

LD281911 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., April 28, IRNA — Naval unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) has at its disposal the most powerful coast-to-sea missile system in the Persian gulf which have been installed in strategically-important spots, announced commander of the unit Hoseyn A'la'i here today.

Speaking in a televised interview the commander said that the missile systems have been installed for defensive purposes and that they will be used whenever necessary.

The unit is also to put under radar coverage the whole Persian Gulf and Oman Sea as well as other necessary spots in the near future, the commander said.

In response to serious threats by arrogant powers in connection with the Hormuz Strait, the Naval unit established its first naval zone comprising missile, artillery and airborne brigades in order to carry out defensive missions in the strait and the shores of the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, A'la'i said.

The commander stressed that IRGC naval unit has attained self-sufficiency in manufacture of fiber-glass vessels noting that they are being mass produced at a faster pace than in most other places in the world.

Asked what goals the big powers were seeking by the sale of new military equipment including submarines to regional countries, A'la'i answered that they bring up hoax threats in order to sell new weaponry to the underdeveloped countries. "Reactionary states pay huge sums of money to purchase arms which they really do not need," he stated.

Several big powers, the commander said, are competing to sell to one of the regional states submarines which are in no way suitable for the shallow waters of the Persian Gulf.

Further in the interview A'la'i said that Iranian combatants took a good amount of booty including surface radars, manual radars, radars used in coast-to-sea missile systems and fire-control missiles from the Iraqi forces during liberation of the port city of Al-Faw (February '86), Karbala'-3 operations and liberation of Al-Amaya Platform in September '86, which are being employed by the unit.

On cooperation of the IRGC naval unit with the Navy, the commander said that these forces are not separate from each other, and that they work as the two powerful arms of the Islamic Republic.

Rafsanjani Addresses Majlis on Karbala'-10

LD281236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] In today's open session of the Majlis, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressing his gratitude for the recent victories of the brave combatants of Islam in "Karbala'-10" operations, said: This

was the first successful experience during the war of cooperation in regular and irregular warfare. In these operations, about 250 square km of sensitive areas of Iraqi Kurdistan were captured by the combatants of Islam with great speed. Our forces gained control of heights which will have a considerable effect upon the future of Iranian and Iraqi Kurdistan.

The representative of the Imam in the Supreme Defense Council referred to the "Karbala'-10" operations, which had been launched in retaliation against the evil deeds of the regime of Saddam and the unlimited pressure which is exerted by that regime upon the Kurdish people. He stressed: What is interesting about the "Karbala'-10" operations is that the fighters of Islam have marched toward their goal during the past few days without any kind of propaganda; and so long as we had not announced the operations which had been carried out, the Zionist Iraqi regime had remained silent. This proves that the Iraqi regime attaches greater importance to morale and to propaganda than to the Iraqi borders and her capabilities. Now that we have announced the launching of "Karbala'-10" operations, the Iraqi regime has confessed that there are important clashes taking place in the north of Iraq and that a post has come under attack by Iranian forces, and that the attack has been repulsed.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: If we accord this confession in history, it would mean that the Iraqi regime has no claim over the area which has been liberated by the forces of Islam. Tomorrow, when reporters visit that region and confirm its liberation, then I don't know what Saddam's response to the Iraqi people and to his supporters will be. On the other hand, how is it that the Americans, who claim that each day their satellites provide them with accurate pictures from all over the fronts on the movements, have kept silent about the "Karbala'-10" operations, and when we made our announcements America announced that no major changes have occurred in the operational zone, or that the region has no considerable strategic importance.

The representative of the Imam in the Supreme Defense Council, referring to the strategic importance of the "Karbala'-10" operational zone, said: In future you will see the importance which FAO has in the south. This region will also play an important role in the north as a gateway to other parts of the region. Certainly, the condoling judgement [qazavat-e tasliyat-amiz] of America is in order to prevent psychological anxiety by the supporters of Saddam and those who have tied their dignity and their future to the dignity of the Ba'thist party.

The Majlis speaker explained the geographical importance of the region. He said: We expect that in the future, Majlis deputies, as well as reporters, will go to the "Karbala'-10" operational zone and see how Saddam, with the destruction of the villages in that region, has declared it a critical military zone. Our fighters, with their own special methods, crossed the major Chuman river, the lofty heights, and difficult roads, and without any propaganda achieved this great victory. These victories have been achieved under conditions when the Iraqi commanders either did not dare inform Saddam of the truth of the matter, or Saddam himself preferred to sacrifice that region for other places. In any case, we congratulate our nation on this victory, and by thanking our fighters we hope that the "Karbala'-10" operations will open up effective paths for the liberation of the oppressed Iraqi people.

Kuwait Warned Against Being Iraq's 'Accomplice'

NC280930 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0445 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Unattributed commentary from the "Developments on the Fronts" feature]

[Text] Various random incidents, especially political occurrences, should not be viewed in isolation but should be analyzed and assessed in terms of other, related topics. Such a review can be made only if all peripheral details linked in any way to the main topic are juxtaposed, to provide a better overall perspective and to reach a general conclusion. Hence, Kuwait's recent invitation to foreign powers to involve themselves in the Persian Gulf and the favorable response of the Soviet Union and the United States must be looked at in perspective.

Ever since Iraq began its war on Iran, the oppressive powers have been offering Iraq unstinted support and assistance in an attempt to improve Iraq's combat readiness and depict Iran as weak by contrast. The Soviets have provided aircraft and missiles, while U.S. satellites and AWACS provide Baghdad echelons with information. The international media has generally been at the disposal of the Zionist Iraqi regime. On a regional level, most of the resources of deprived [mahrum] nations have been placed at the disposal of Iraq through affiliated regimes.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly declared that it is hostile only to the Iraqi Ba'thist rulers and wants peace and harmonious coexistence with other countries of the region. Our attitude has been borne out by our actions to date. However, the diminutive state of Kuwait has pointedly ignored this stance and continues to make mischief, which could drag the region into chaos. This Kuwaiti troublemaking should be nipped in the bud, before it creates an explosive situation.

With the victorious Karbala'-5 operations, which have been carried forward through Karbala'-8, the people of the world have realized that no bastion, stronghold, or fortress can protect the lord of the Qadisiyah. Therefore, a new plot was hatched, centered in diminutive Kuwait for many reasons, to request that foreign powers avail themselves Kuwaiti vessels to transport cargo. This would prove instrumental in creating tension in the Persian Gulf, further embroiling Iran and giving the impaired war machinery of the Ba'th party time to recover.

It is time that the rulers of diminutive Kuwait understood what our chairman of the Supreme Defense Council meant when he said that the Kuwaiti Government will be held responsible for any incident or confrontation in the Persian Gulf and that, in the ensuing fray, Kuwait would be the first to be trampled underfoot. All this is an indication of the intensity of the blow sustained by the Ba'th Party in recent operations by the Islamic combatants. The presence of the U.S. fleet and the shuttling of Soviet officials through the region's countries all prove that the Islamic combatants have achieved a major triumph, a victory which has generated changes in political relations in the region and the world.

Our Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati has analyzed these developments: [Begin Besharati recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God, the cherisher

and sustainer of the worlds. [Koranic verse] With salutations to the imam of the nation and warmest greetings to all the dear ones engaged in the defense of Islamic prestige and territorial integrity of the sacred administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Massive and decisive victories of great and unprecedented military significance have created two reactions in the world.

First, they have reaffirmed the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is categorically determined to continue its noble defense until victory and will not falter. When our combatants shattered the strongholds the Iraqi regime took 5 years to construct, the huge concrete trenches and insurmountable barriers that had to have been designed and planned by the Zionists and the enemies of Muslims because their construction could not possibly have been the result of Ba'thist innovations — only those who have viewed them firsthand will understand what I mean — the people of the world, especially the rulers of oppressive regimes, became convinced that Iran's resolve is unwavering.

The other reaction was seen in the deeds of certain rulers, who have continued their belligerence and threats against nonaligned and free countries, stepping up their hostile propaganda and trying to exert greater pressure. I consider these threats like those of the shah in the disgraceful last days of his reign. When he saw that he would have to go, he increased his threats and pressure, and violence grew in the streets — dragging the people further into blood and dust. Obviously this state of affairs cannot continue, and the blight of the Ba'thist regime will, God willing, be eliminated as soon as possible. [end recording]

In the wake of these victories, a new plot has been hatched to save Saddam. However, the great Iranian nation has proven in the face of such plots in the past — such as the reduction of oil prices, which was just one of a series of schemes to perpetuate the life of the Ba'th party, implemented with the collusion of world oppression — that it is prepared to sacrifice all in its struggle against the enemy. Today Kuwait, more than ever, should ponder this point.

[Begin Besharati recording] We have repeatedly told the regional states that our war is only with the Ba'thist Iraqi regime, and that we want cordial ties with all other neighboring countries. Incidentally, in the past year we have improved our ties with the Arab littoral states, and even as I speak we are hosting a delegation from one of the Arab Persian Gulf countries. We are not in a state of war with them. We have offered them the hand of friendship. We have repeatedly told them not to link their destinies with that of Saddam, and some have heeded our counsel. But the same dictatorial and inimical terrorist policy followed by the Saddam regime in the course of its history has motivated these countries to support it, even if only superficially.

The overall picture is one of improved ties, but Kuwait has unfortunately ignored our fraternal and friendly advice, continuing its generally antagonistic attitude toward the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government. We have no choice but to punish this minor state, which is getting too big for its britches and putting on airs. As the adage goes, the ear which does not heed the advice of elders is one day twisted with pain. Of course, the path of return is open to Kuwait, and we once again advise it to refrain from assisting the Ba'thist Iraqi regime. If not, the Kuwaiti regime will be considered an accomplice in all the atrocities perpetrated by Iraqis, both in Iran and Iraq. [end recording]

Petrovksiy Visit to Iraq Demonstrates 'Bias'

LD251358 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1059 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Unattributed commentary: "The visit to Iraq by the Soviet deputy foreign minister"]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, the Soviet deputy foreign minister [Petrovskiy] on the final leg of his tour of Kuwait, the UAE, and Oman, left Kuwait for Basra. During his visit to the latter he expressed his pleasure at the continuation of normal life there within the range of the fire of Islamic forces.

By visiting Iraq and inspecting Basra, a few km from the battlefronts, and by expressing such views — bearing in mind the content of his speeches in Kuwait and Abu Dhabi — demonstrate the special bias taken within the framework of Moscow's increasing support for the Iraqi Regime. Previously Soviet leaders and high-ranking officials, at least in their verbal stances, emphasized the adoption of a neutral stance with regard to the Iran-Iraq war, and they insistently attempted to justify the dispatch of advanced military hardware to Baghdad as being within the framework of the Moscow-Baghdad Friendship Treaty.

However, in the present circumstances, the Iraqi regime, under the continuous blows dealt it by Islam's combatants and the continuing surge of our popular forces to the battlefronts, is facing fundamental problems. Also, the inhumane moves of the Baghdad rulers have not produced the desired results. In such circumstances excessive Soviet efforts and desire to enter the Persian Gulf, and the preparation of conditions for a broader U.S. intervention in the region in effect demonstrate the fact that the dimensions of world plots — within the framework of safeguarding and supporting the Iraqi regime and attempts to block the realization of the demands by Iran's Islamic nation — might acquire even greater scope in the coming months.

This latest Soviet policy, irrespective of Moscow's ostensible adherence to niceties and its perennial claim of remaining neutral in the Iran-Iraq war, is in effect formulating conditions whereby the U.S. Government, seizing the opportunity offered by the said conditions, will also attempt to escalate the scope of its acts of aggression in the Persian Gulf region. Even more important is the fact that the Soviet Government, heedless of the reasons for the emergence of tension in the Persian Gulf and the role played by the Iraqi regime toward this end, has suddenly become aware of the need to safeguard the security of Kuwaiti oil tankers. Also, the continuation of normal activity in Basra meets the approval of the Soviet deputy foreign minister: he forgets that Iranian cities have for years been the targets of shelling and continuous missile attacks by the Iraqi regime. All this time the Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly affirmed the need to halt the inhuman policy of firing missiles at populated areas in cities.

Why is it that reports prepared by UN special missions on the Iraqi regime's targeting missiles on our country's populated

centers, and on the Baghdad rulers' extensive use of chemical weapons have not met with a rapid and decisive expression of protest by the Soviet Foreign Ministry? The massacre of our children, women, and civilian men in the cities are received with silence and indifference by the USSR's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [passage omitted]

Earthquakes Hit Bandar 'Abbas, Qeshm Island

LD290835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit Report, at 0515 hours today an earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter Scale rocked the city of Bandar 'Abbas and its suburbs. Earlier this morning, strong earth tremors rocked Bandar 'Abbas at 0210 hours and the island of Qeshm and its surrounding areas at 0520 hours. No report has been received yet on damage or casualties from these earth tremors.

Larijani Addresses Group of 77; Meets Malmierca

For a report on Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani's visit to the Group of 77 conference in Havana, see the Cuba section of the 29 April Latin America *Daily Report*.